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Docket No: 740165-428

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)	
Hitoshi TAKAMATSU et al.)	
Application No. 10/582,959)	Art Unit: Not Known
Filed: June 15, 2006)	Confirmation No. Not Known
For: WERRING RETRACTOR		

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

United States Patent and Trademark Office Customer Window Randolph Building 401 Dulany Street Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the accompanying information is being submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97 and 1.98.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98, a copy of each of the documents cited is enclosed. However, copies of the listed U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications are not enclosed since it is no longer required according to the July 11, 2003 waiver of the requirement for copies of cited U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications in national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003 and international applications entering the national stage under 35 U.S.C. §371 after June 30, 2003.

The documents are being submitted within three (3) months of the filing or entry of the national stage of this application or before the first Office Action on the merits, whichever is later. Since these documents are being filed within the time period set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b), no fee or statement is required.

It is requested that the accompanying PTO-1449 be considered and made of record in the above-identified application. To assist the Examiner, the documents are listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees in connection with this filing which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-2380.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

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Date: September 14, 2006

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Sheet

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THORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

of

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Complete if Known		
Application Number	10/582,959	
Filing Date	June 15, 2006	
First Named Inventor	Hitoshi TAKAMATSU et al.	
Art Unit	Not Known	
Examiner Name	Kimberly White	
Attorney Docket Number	740165-428	

	U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS				
Examiner Initials	Cite No.1	U.S. Patent Document Number - Kind Code ² (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		US 6,405,959 B1	06-18-2002	Klingauf et al.	
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		FO	REIGN PATENT DO	DCUMENTS		
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Kind Code ⁵ Country Code ³ Number ⁴ (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Application of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		JP 2000-247208	09-12-2000	Klingauf et al.		AB
		JP 2000-229555	08-22-2000	Yamada et al.		AB
		JP 10-095309	04-14-1998	Nishide et al.		AB
		1		<u> </u>	<u>.</u>	
		OTHER PRIOR A	RT – NON PATENT L	ITERATURE DOCUMENTS		
Examiner Initials*	Cite Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the No. 1 item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.)., date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.			T ²		
International Search Report, PCT/JP2004/018603, March 15, 2005						
						
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Examiner	Date
Signature	Considered

^{*}EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at <u>www.uspto.gov</u> or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.